



This issue is complimentary to new readers.

All others please do your duty and fill out the coupon on page 2. We depend on member support.

Blames W-H and Chamber

Why the Farmers Union Moved Their Convention Out of Omaha

World-Herald readers learned on December 22 of the decision of the National Farmers Union to change the location of their 1990 convention from Omaha to Oklahoma City, a decision made because of political positions taken by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the World-Herald, some large Omaha based banks and agri-business interests. The move is expected to

cost the city \$650,000 in expenses for some 1,300 delegates.

The paper's article included a defense of W-H balance, and a claim of excellence in ag reporting, by Day Managing Editor Robert Pearman.

No mention was made of the paper's lack of an ag editor, a position unfilled for over a year.

The next day their lead editorial,

by Larry Hall
President, Farmers Union,
Nebraska

The idea of moving the convention out of Omaha started last summer when I obtained a copy of a brochure regarding agriculture published by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Their position is pro 1985 farm bill and very anti supply management.

I sent a copy to Cy Carpenter, president of the National Farmers Union, and questioned whether we really wanted to hold the National Farmers Union convention in a city that was working against the national farm program we supported.

Cy was appalled by the brochure, and brought it to the attention of the Executive Committee. He also discussed with them the struggle the Farmers Union

has had with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the World-Herald, some large Omaha based banks and agri-business over Initiative 300. Cy has long been aware of the biases of the World-Herald, and I feel sure that problems he and others have with the paper had just as much impact on their decision as the other factors.

In the fall the National Executive Committee voted to recommend to the full Board to pull out. In December when the board met in Denver this matter was discussed. I and every other state Farmers Union president voted to pull out.

We were accused of trying to intimidate, trying to force them to change their editorial and reporting policy.

When I contacted

longer than the original article, invited public contempt for the Farmers Union tactics.

The World-Herald has refused to print the Farmers Union's rebuttal. Whamo offers its readers the following comments from Farmers Union of Nebraska president Larry Hall.

Editorial Page Editor Frank Partsch, I was told the Farmers Union would not be given space to respond to their editorial. "You have had your shot at us and we were just responding."

The really ironic thing about this is that the editorial said that the Farmers Union action deserved the contempt of all fair minded Nebraskans yet the editorial department was not fair minded enough give us our say..

If the Farmers Union had contacted the World-Herald and threatened to move the convention unless they changed their editorial and reporting policy, we clearly would have been attempting to intimidate them. However, the only contact we had with the paper on this subject was at our news

cont'd p.6, col. 3

Jobbers Canyon Memorial Issue

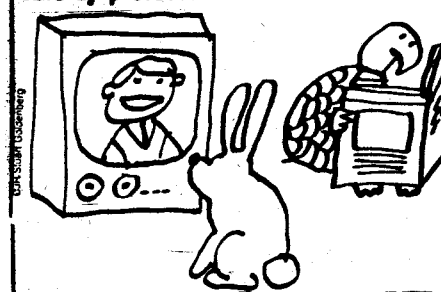
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WHAMO MONITORS THE HERALD

WHAMO is a citizens' organization that keeps an eye on our favorite local daily. We have been around four years and have published a newsletter monthly for two years.

Whamo is for everybody. All of us are ordinary citizens. Most are also news junkies. A few are journalists by profession.



From the Farmers' Union press release.

Omaha is a fine city. The decision to pull our national convention out of Omaha should in no way be interpreted as a negative reflection upon the mayor, the City Council, the citizens of the city of Omaha, or the hotel and convention facilities.

The decision of the National Farmers' Union Board of Directors was based upon the political position of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the Omaha World-Herald, some large Omaha based banks and agri-business interests.

WHAMO

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Ves

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When Corporations Strong-Arm the States

The author, a syndicated columnist, is a pulse taker of change in how the United States governs itself. He has been the national political editor of the Congressional Quarterly.

The material below has not been printed in the World-Herald.

by Neal Peirce
reprinted by permission,
Washington Post Writers'
Group.

The rabbit is dead in New Stanton, Pa. Production will halt and 2,500 jobs will evaporate next summer as Volkswagen, the first foreign auto manufacturer to build cars in the United States, becomes the first to leave.

Left in the lurch are Pennsylvania state and local governments which a decade ago anted up \$88 million in low-interest loans, tax abatements, and road and rail improvements to land the plant.

"Smokestack chasing" (coughing up huge public subsidies to lure industriess) was the "state of the art" of local economic development strategies when then-Democratic Gov. Milton Shapp promised Volkswagen the store in 1976.

A glance around the country might suggest nothing has changed. Kentucky bends itself out of fiscal shape to snare a Toyota plant. Governors race to outdo each other in tax breaks and concessions to snare a federally funded atom-smasher.

But most states have learned to do better by thinking smaller. Their new bag of tricks in the 80's has embraced trade promotion, fostering new technologies, readapting old factories, nurturing small firms, encouraging venture-capital funds, upgrading education and training. Creating, in short, the conditions to stimulate long-term future growth.

But a lightly populated rural state can still fall victim to corporate strong-arming. The most poignant case of 1987 was how Nebraska got taken to the cleaners.

ConAgra, the Omaha-based food-processing conglomerate, started searching in and out of state for a site for a new research facility and headquarters. Southern locations like Tennessee proved cheaper. So ConAgra CEO Mike Harper presented Nebraska with an ultimatum: Revamp major portions of your tax law to give us a sweeter deal, or we'll leave.

The personal income tax, said Harper, would have to be rejuggled too reduce the hit on business executives and other top earners by some 30 percent.

Next, the taxable base of the corporate earnings would have to be shrunk to reflect in-state sales alone, to provide a massive tax reduction for ConAgra.

Finally, the legislature would have to

approve, for large firms, a package of sweeping investment and payroll tax credits--plus selective local property and equipment tax exemptions (including all of ConAgra's computers and jet airplanes).

The business-minded Omaha World-Herald took up the drumbeat for the tax breaks--even though Nebraska ranks only 44th among the 50 states in corporate tax burden, 36th in personal-income tax burden. Other firms joined Harper's campaign. Hanging heavy in memory was the departure to Houston of InterNorth, a corporate mainstay whose loss cost Nebraska thousands of jobs.

Republican Gov. Kay Orr blinked. Nebraska's unicameral legislature blinked. Harper and corporate buddies got 100 percent of what they asked for.

"Corporate blackmail" were the words SEN. Don Wesely, chairman of the legislature's special committee on economic development, flung at the deal. The tax breaks, he noted, didn't even help struggling or threatened businesses.

But Wesely ended up voting for the bill. Why? "The loss of ConAgra would have created a crisis of self-confidence in Nebraska which we could not risk."

A New York, a California, a Michigan or Pennsylvania would tell a Mike Harper, if he put comparable demands on the

table in their state, to get lost. Smaller states in sound economic health would too.

But the Dakotas, Iowa and other Plains states, thrown onto the ropes by the farm depression and factories moving offshore, find their resistance near zero. The immunity level is also dangerously low in such mountain states as Montana and Wyoming, or in Mississippi or Alabama.

Each time a state succumbs to corporate demands that deplete its treasury, it's less prepared to make the investments in education, research, training, infrastructure, social services, environmental protection it needs to develop long term economic competitiveness.

Right now Nebraska is discovering that the ConAgra tax-break package estimated to cost \$24 million seems likely to be at least \$160 million.

Orr says the bill sparked \$1.2 billion in investment, with a projected 10,959 new jobs. But the cost is causing grave worries.

"Corporations are bellying up to the trough in staggering numbers," says Marty Strange of the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill. But the governor and other backers "have to be worried they created a slop that was too sweet and the pigs are going to break the bank." It could take as long as 50 years for increased jobs and economic activity to make up for the tax concessions, he claims.

Wesely says it's time to put on the brakes. A company evaluates costs and benefits before it makes investment moves. So why, he asks, shouldn't a state evaluate the public benefits of each tax break, and apply tough cost-benefit analysis, and say no to the bad and questionable deals?

Indeed, governors and legislators, why not?

How to WHAMO? See this coupon to get on our permanent list.

Put me on your list of WHAMO supporters!

Name _____

☐ Morning W-H ☐ Eve & Sunday

Address _____

I read:

Phone: Day _____ Eve _____

☐ Other _____

☐ I want to receive the newsletter, and since I know the Kiewit Foundation didn't give you a grant this year, I'll help out with a donation.*

☐ I can't manage a large donation, but I promise to brag about WHAMO to all my friends; please send me the newsletter.

☐ Count me in for some donated labor.

☐ I want to monitor news about

☐ I know how to use Appleworks (or some other data base) and can help with the mailing list.

☐ I am pretty good at layout and production.

☐ I like to draw cartoons.

*Survival Outlook:

WHAMO needs to average \$20/yr. from all its members who are employed

WHAMO P.O. Box 31383 Omaha, NE 68131 551-2629



"Whamo Goofed on Field Club"

3

This is the first of hopefully very few reports from a new outfit called Whamo-Oh. Whenever a spokesman for the ruling elite captures the front page of Omaha's only alternative newspaper to press a point of view already articulated by the Wierd Herald, it's time for Whamo-Oh to protest.

The issue at hand is the Field Club. A 65 acre

spread in the center of the most prosperous city in the Midwest leased from the city for less than \$11,700 per month since who knows when. This property can't be sold to anyone but the Field Club since the clubhouse, swimming pool, etc. are owned by the club and can all be torn out if the club is not the highest bidder for the property. But the club doesn't want to buy the

property because then it would have to pay property taxes, millions of dollars of property taxes.

So forget how the Field Club's first bid, \$93,000, came in suspiciously one hundred dollars over the only other bid. Forget about ever enjoying public land that costs \$4,500 to enjoy for a year. Forget that the rich rulers shouted

down their critics at a public hearing. Forget how the County Board tried to simply award the lease to the "best" bidder when the County Attorney and then the state's Attorney General claimed it would be illegal. And I'm willing to forget that for one page Whamo was an Oh-Oh.

Tom Foster
Whamo-Oh spokesperson

A Pulse Reject

The following letter was turned down for publication in the Public Pulse. The author, who called to ask why, was told that the editor pulled it because it was "too accusational and made the city sound ogreish."

The redevelopment of downtown Omaha is a wonderful idea with one exception, THE RIVERFRONT PROJECT. Dollar wise what really happens to those employees and employers when they are forced to relocate at a less than fair market value price created by the gross abuse of governmental power to BLIGHT the area?

How can the city Planning Department, the mayor, and others involved in the project condemn an area with the livelihood

which is so prevalent. Maybe we should look up the word BLIGHT and see its true meaning. Don't you think it's strange to condemn an area full of healthy businesses just to level the buildings to the ground so ConAgra can build another office building?

Where's the loyalty to the existing businesses which have put so much into the city for so many years? Sleep tight!

Vicki Spahr



From the WHAMO Archives

Here's a memo from the past. It was from executive editor Woody Howe, addressed to the top editors at the W-H.

Such style memos are common at our favorite local daily. Gambling machines, for instance, are always video slots, and (corporate) tax breaks are always tax incentives.

The Game and Parks Foundation's award of \$100,000 to Eugene Mahoney was not a gift.

The Associated Press' Ed Howard persists in calling it a gift. To do so

is to take the side of those who say it was wrong at best and possibly illegal.

The attorney general called it an award. The foundation called it an award. It is similar to the Nobel Prize in purpose and function. Nobody calls the Nobel a "gift".

Take steps, please, to make our stories objective by eliminating the AP's slanted characterization of this as a gift.

GWH/dg October 13, 1986



Youth for Peace Demonstrate on W-H Central America Coverage

Dear editor,

Since the project of your organization is monitoring the attitude of the World-Herald, I would like to share some observations concerning a recent experience.

On December 29, Youth for Peace held a demonstration outside of the World-Herald. Our purpose was to inform the W-H and also the public how we feel about the W-H's biased coverage and editorial myopia concerning Central America.

About a week earlier I had sent a press release to the W-H and also just before the demonstration I went into the lobby to let them know we were about to begin. No reporter came out to

speak to us--and, surprise!--no story appeared in the paper.

What is the W-H afraid of? This attitude reminds me of the situation (reported in Whhmo) when Witness for Peace came out with their report of Contra atrocities. Initially the W-H would not run anything on this report. Only after a week of phone calls and a visit from Marylyn Felion did the W-H run in their morning edition a small four-inch story with a twelve point headline.

So what is behind this attitude? The W-H's attitude seems to be exactly the same as the U.S. government's concerning Central America. The U.S.

government's policy and the W-H's show a simplistic vision of black and white, good or bad, and a deep-seated need to control events and the view of the public.

One step to approach this or any other subject is first to accept a broader range of possibilities, and to recognize every country's right to construct its own model of democracy.

Joe Fowler

Youth for Peace is a local service and issues group of about twenty-five young people. They are concerned with militarism in the high schools, family farm, and Central America, among many other issues. They meet Wednesday evenings at the Antiquarium, 6:15 p.m.



Youth for Peace members leaflet in front of the World-Herald December 29.

The leaflet protests the news emphasis placed on the 600,000 person military buildup reported by Roger Miranda, a recent defector from Nicaragua. The group believes that more exposure should have been given to a December 17 report in the NYT in which a defense department official calls Miranda's report "speculative."

by Gene Donahue, S.J.

Several months ago, due to lack of W-H coverage, Whamo published information about the lawsuit filed by the Christic Institute (1324 N. Capitol St. NW, Washington, DC 20002) against principals in the Iran-Contra scandal, including Maj. Gen. John Singlaub (Ret.), John Hull, Theodore Shackley, Tom Posey, Francisco "Paco" Chanes, and Rob Owen. Although several books and numerous articles have been published about these secret operations and their implications for democratic process, we in the Omaha community have received little or no information about this continuing and deepening scandal from our local daily.

We hope to read about contra drug running in the W-H when the Senate Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics and International Communications (chaired by John Kerry) holds its hearings in drug smuggling, now scheduled for February.

In the meantime, this article will give major highlights of the Christic Institute's new report, "The Contra-Drug Connection," and some related information from Joan Didion's latest book, Miami (NY: Simon and Shuster, 1987).

(For a complete listing of Christic Institute publications, contact them at the address above or call them at 202-797-8106.)

SAYING YES TO DRUGS

While the President and First Lady are telling ordinary citizens to "Just say No" to drugs, U.S. government agents have been saying Yes to drug trafficking for forty years, during covert wars in Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Afghanistan. Despite the toll of addiction, violence and despair such drugs bring to our neighborhoods, some people in Congress and the press either downplay

ignore, or even sabotage reports about how our "freedom fighters" in Nicaragua are financed by drug shipments into this country.

REPORTS OF THE CARTEL

Evidence for the contra-drug connection includes testimony by three pilots who flew south with weapons to the contras and returned north to the U.S. with drugs, largely cocaine, using the Costa Rican ranches of an American, John Hull, as their base.

A money launderer for Columbia's major drug cartel told Congress that he helped funnel \$10 million to the contras through Felix Rodriguez, a CIA operative who has met with Vice-President Bush three times. More than \$200,000 of U.S. "humanization aid" for the contras was paid to Francisco "Paco" Chanes, the owner of a seafood import company that smuggled cocaine into the U.S. from Costa Rica.

During the past two years, large-scale contra involvement in drug trafficking has been chronicled in numerous government reports. Documents from the Iran/contra hearings reveal that the Reagan Administration was well aware of contra drug dealing. In particular, memos between Rob Owen and Oliver North show that North was repeatedly informed about contra drug operations. Other reports indicate that key Reagan officials, including Edwin Meese, apparently obstructed investigations into contra drug and gun running activities.

DIDION'S MIAMI

Joan Didion's fascinating nonfiction account of the Cuban exiles in Miami; their politics, and their experiences with the government in Washington confirms and amplifies the Christic Institute's investigations. Through research and interviews with many of the exiles, Didion provides a wealth of insight and detail into how the Cubans, too, have been used by the U.S. government for its own purposes.

LINKS WITH KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

After the Bay of Pigs fiasco in 1961, and the decision by the U.S. in 1962 not to invade Cuba, President Kennedy became the "number two most hated man in Miami," Castro being "of course the number one most hated."

The head of the CIA's JM/WAVE station on the University of Miami campus in 1963-65 was Theodore Shackley, who later served as political officer and chief of station in Vientiane and Saigon from 1966-72, and who turns up in 1987 in the Tower Commission report meeting in Hamburg with Manucher Ghorbanifar and later discussing the hostage problem over lunch with Michael Ledeen.

The JM/WAVE station in 1962 was said to be the largest CIA installation in the world, outside of Langley, with over 300 case officers from the CIA's clandestine services branch. Each of these officers had between four and ten Cuban "principal agents," who in turn had between ten and thirty Cuban "regular agents," mainly exiles, making JM/WAVE one of the largest employers in the state of Florida.

As time passed, however, it became apparent to the exiles that no further invasion of Cuba was planned, the U.S. found its trained Cubans to be a "disposal problem," as Allen Dulles called it in 1961. The dimensions of this problem come to light in the report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978, which said there were twenty exile groups which had "the motivation, capability and resources" to have assassinated President Kennedy, and two of these groups were believed to have links with Lee Harvey Oswald.

Didion cites testimony from this Committee's report, including allegations by a Cuban woman, Marita Lorenz, who said she was present at a September, 1963, meeting in the Miami home of Orlando Bosch, during which Lee Harvey Oswald, Frank Sturgis, Pedro Diaz Lanz, and Bosch made plans to go to Dallas. She

testified that she travelled to Dallas in a two-car caravan about November 15, 1963 with Ignacio and Guillermo Novo, Lanz, Sturgis, Bosch, and Oswald. There they met Jack Ruby in a motel room containing several rifles and scopes. She said she returned to Miami around November 19 or 20th.

Didion narrates the stories of Steven Carr and Jesus Garcia, the former a "South Florida lowlife," and the latter a "former Dade County corrections officer." Carr was arrested in 1985 in Costa Rica on weapons charges, and he began telling people how he had collected arms for the contras. After picking up the arms in Dade County, he loaded them into a chartered plane at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, accompanied them to Ilopango Airport in El Salvador, and later witnessed their delivery in Costa Rica to a unit of Cuban exiles, veterans of the Bay of Pigs' 2506 Brigade, fighting with the contras.

Garcia was arrested in Miami in 1986 on an illegal weapons charge, and he said that he too had collected arms for the contras in the spring of 1985. He also said he had heard the plan to assassinate the new American ambassador to Costa Rica, Lewis Tambs, to blow up the embassy there, and then to blame it on the Sandinistas. The purpose was twofold: to collect on a million-dollar contract the Colombian drug cartel had put out on Tambs, who had been ambassador to Columbia and who had complained of "narco-guerrillas," and to provide the U.S. with the incident it needed to invade Nicaragua.

Certain details in the stories told by Carr and Garcia coincide. Both mentioned the Howard Johnson motel near the Miami airport, the one that advertised a special "guerrilla discount" of \$17/night; both mentioned meeting in Miami with an American named Bruce Jones, said to own a farm in Costa Rica on the Nicaraguan border; both mentioned Tom Posey, who founded the paramilitary group CMA (originally Civilian Military Assistance, but later named

Civilian Material Assistance); both mentioned Rob Owen, who ran errands to and from Central America for Oliver North.

STORIES CONVERGE

Because these narratives are difficult or impossible to verify, Didion notes that these and many other stories which keep recurring in reports of the Warren Commission in 1964, of the Watergate investigations in 1974, of the Church committee in 1975 and 1976, and of the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1977 and 1978 can be easily dismissed.

And yet when she received an invitation and letter from Major General John K. Singlaub in August, 1985, urging financial support for "freedom fighters" (in Afghanistan, Angola, Laos, South Vietnam, Cambodia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua), the "apparently disparate elements seemed to be converging...and the convergence was not one which discouraged that 'search for conspiracy' deployed ...a decade before."

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

In August, 1987 the Iowa Interchurch Forum, representing 14 denominations statewide, adopted a plan to draw the attention of presidential candidates to the critical issues of Contragate and the constitutional crisis it represents. What can be done here in Nebraska?

One step would be to educate ourselves through the materials available from the Christic Institute, or by reading other books and articles from the bibliography provided in its "Contra-Drug Connection" report. Another step would be to pressure our local PBS TV station to air again Bill Moyers' PBS Special "The Secret Government: Constitution in Crisis," originally broadcast on November 4, 1987. Another step is to write our Congresspeople that we do not want any more money to be sent to the contras. They have done enough damage already.

Jobbers Canyon, Round One

FGM

Declare the World-Herald winner of round one of the battle over whether Jobbers canyon shall keep its historic buildings or sacrifice them to ConAgra.

Readers learned the morning of January 5 that an agreement had been "achieved," an interesting choice of verbs. The previous Sunday they read in a lengthy article by Kevin Collison a description of the many aspects of the decision, then near its

deadline. Historic preservationists rated little mention, something about "people who like old buildings."

Jim Bechtel, an owner of property which, like the Jobbers Canyon buildings, is on the National Register, believes the battle is not over.

It comes down to whether federal funds are planned, or according to Joyce Slusher of Landmarks, whether they ever will be

used.

A hearing is required before a building on the National Register can be torn down. Bechtel also recalls a lawsuit at the time of the demolition of the WOW Building, based on the fact that the building was in the area of the downtown development project, including the Mall, which was federally funded. They lost the suit, but Bechtel believes that the legal part of it could have been handled better.

Another source believes

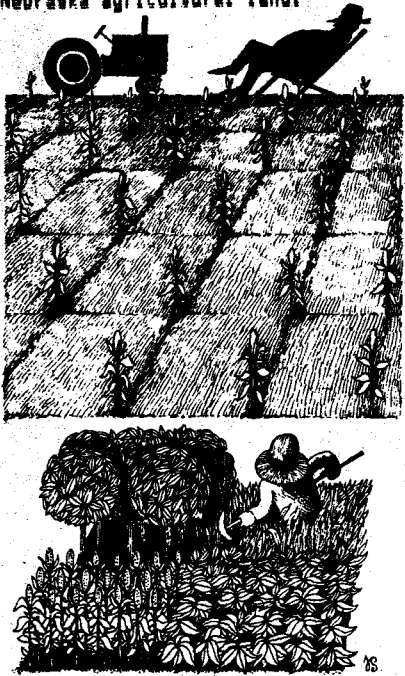
that it is virtually impossible to completely avoid federal funding in a project of this size which must include public power lines and levees.

If it turns out that any federal money is to be spent, it will be necessary to file an environmental impact statement, said Bechtel, which includes archeological considerations.

Landmarks, according to spokesperson Joyce Slusher, has not ruled out a suit.

From the Center for Rural Affairs

We have heard many times from the Center for Rural Affairs that the World-Herald runs its editorial position on the front page disguised as news. The following recent examples further illustrate what we can expect from our favorite local daily on the subject of Initiative 300, the 1982 Family Farm Amendment which prohibits non-family corporate ownership of Nebraska agricultural land.



Examples of editorials disguised as news:

* A recent front page story devoted ten column inches to allegations by former Senator John DeCamp, a principal opponent of I-300, that I-300 caused the breakdown in negotiations between the P.J. Taggares Co. and Quaker Oats without providing any space for any supporters of I-300 to rebut the attack.

Later, when it was revealed that a lawsuit among Taggares family members was a more likely cause of the breakdown, the World-Herald continued to quote DeCamp's version of the story but did not include statements by a Quaker Oats official

admitting in other newspapers that I-300 was not a major factor in the breakdown.

*When the Attorney General filed a lawsuit against Imperial Union Sales, Inc., the World-Herald gave it front page coverage and included numerous quotes from various opponents of I-300. Although an I-300 supporter was interviewed at length for the article, all statements from him were cut before it was published.

*The World-Herald dispatched a reporter to do a front-page feature story in Imperial, NE (about 350 miles from Omaha) giving full play to the defendants in the Imperial Union Sales case. But when the credibility of their story was challenged by facts surrounding the bankruptcy of one of the shareholders, the World-Herald found none of those facts to be newsworthy.

*A study of the Nebraska economy by the Stanford Research Institute devoted one page (out of several hundred) to I-300, but the World-Herald coverage emphasized the report's negative comments about I-300, including them in a front page story and headlining another story on the topic in the same edition.

The paper refused to print comments from an I-300 supporter who pointed out that the study had been paid for by the Peter Kiewit Foundation, which is a major shareholder in the World-Herald.

Farmers Union, from p.1

conference after decision had already been made.

SOME EXAMPLES

I could offer many examples of imbalance in the World-Herald's coverage of Initiative 300, but this recent one comes to mind. A story by Robert Dorr, "Fairly Stable Market Is Predicted as Nebraska Ag Values Rise Again," ran November 24. It would have been appropriate to mention how the state was doing in relation to comparable states, as a measure of how Initiative 300 has affected land prices. The day before the Lincoln Journal had reported on a study of the seven states which comprise the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. One hundred fifty-three bankers in the seven states had been interviewed. The finding was that only in Nebraska had land values risen in all three of the classes of agricultural land (irrigated crop land, non-irrigated crop land, and ranch land). This fact would suggest to most people that Initiative 300 has if anything improved the land values in the state. But we didn't read about it in the World-Herald.

On December 20, however, we read a story that included the personal opinions of two Texas cattlemen who felt that Initiative 300 was depressing the value of land in the sandhills. Even a quote calling Initiative 300 "that crazy law," was included.

The World-Herald's

defense of their news balance, in terms of how few times it gave space to the Chamber of Commerce point of view is completely irrelevant. They have certainly done plenty of damage to Initiative 300 without ever quoting the Chamber. A more relevant figure would be a simple comparison of numbers of pro 300 stories and editorials versus numbers against.

There are two things I regret about the decision: 1. the media gave virtually no attention to the next to the last paragraph in of our press release (see box, page 1), in which we asked that our action not be seen as reflecting negatively on Omaha itself, and; 2. I was unsuccessful in my attempt to move the convention site to Lincoln—we were outvoted by Oklahoma City and Indianapolis.

From the Lincoln Journal

12/1/87

Editorial

There really isn't much doubt that a major public opinion campaign against the 1982 Nebraska Family Farm Amendment is being loosely orchestrated these days in advance of the 1988 legislative session. Repeated "news" stories with a focus critical of the amendment (Initiative 300) appear in the Omaha World-Herald, Nebraska's dominant opinion shaper. "Anecdotal" material on the other side seems scarce. Apparently it isn't news that corporate interests are no longer engaged in what used to be called the Rape of the Sandhills.

A Mirror for Your Newspaper

FGM

WRITE ON

Whamo is trading newsletters with a nifty little in-house effort by a handful of folks at our favorite local daily. They call their effort "Write On," and it's about the nuts and bolts of their job--good headlines, economy of words, lots of tips on how they turn average stories into good ones. Plus kudos they give each other.

It's a good job and shows they care. The focus is such that you wouldn't expect to read analysis of

news bias (as we enjoy on these pages), but that's ok, that's our job.

Anyone who wants to understand better what news people go through ought to read some of this stuff. I will be happy to share my copies. Call.

UNICAMERAL PAY RAISES

Here's a World-Herald editorial position I support completely. In fact, I had been thinking of writing a billboard slogan on the same theme.

Here's how we show respect for the poor in Nebraska.

Q. WHAT DO NEBRASKANS CALL SOMEONE WHO MAKES UNDER \$5,000?

A. SENATOR!

This time I hope their voice is heard.

WHAT'S A BEHIND CENTER?

Here's a great headline from December 4.

Nebraskan Gets Behind Center for Handicapped

When I told my friend that I didn't have any idea

what a "behind center" was when his response was, "Obviously. Not being handicapped, you wouldn't know."

THOUGHT PROVOKING DISPLAY

Honest, this ad is straight out of our favorite local daily, except that I reduced it from nearly a full page.

What can you say? Well, my friend, (same one, George Sarratt, if anyone wants to know) was as usual, not at a loss for words.

Says George, "I've never heard it put quite that way..."

Furthermore, "what an opportunity--since they're already 25% off!"

Slip Into
Something
Comfortable

Jockey For Her[®] Panties

25% Off

Sale 2.99-8.99; reg. \$4-\$12. Ahh...the comfort of 100% combed cotton and the famous Jockey fit. Tailored to give you absolute freedom of movement, these panties won't ride up or bind. And because Jockey finishes the fabric with a special process that guards against excess shrinkage, the comfort and fit will last.

Big (as in important, not large) DENNIS AT GATEWAY



the Gateway

Yes, you have to . . .

Yes, you have to fill out the coupon on page 2 to be on WHAMO's permanent mailing list (unless you're Harold Andersen or Woody Howe--they get Whamo regardless). Calling us up is fine, but you also have to send in the coupon to get the computer's attention.

That goes for renewing members too. All we ask of you is to hear from you once a year. So fill out that coupon or no more Whamos.

Documenting the Iroquois Contribution

FGM

Not many in Omaha know about it, but Bruce Johansen's book, *Forgotten Founders* is getting some deserved attention lately.

Johansen, an associate professor of journalism at UNO, to be truthful, hasn't spent much energy bragging, so it's probably his own fault if his latest honor was a well kept secret.

Forgotten Founders documents the contribution of the Iroquois to the U.S. Constitution, a subject so little researched that Johansen's 167-page book qualifies him as an authority. Besides finding himself in demand as a speaker in certain circles, and as a research consultant for a possible public television program, Johansen in November was asked to prepare testimony for the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

The Senate Committee was considering S.J. Res. 53, which, among other things, recognized the contributions of the Six Nations (Iroquois), and other Indians, to our system.

Johansen's testimony, a thirty minute synopsis of his book, was read to the Committee on December 2, by Oren Lyons, artist, professor, and traditional chief of the Onondagas.

Book Review: Forgotten Founders

We think it's time to reprint this review of Bruce Johansen's book, done 8/14/83 by James Denney of the World-Herald.

Forgotten Founders
by Bruce E. Johansen
(Gambit, 167 pages, \$10.95)

Dennis Hastings of Macy, Neb., a historical researcher for the Omaha Indian tribe, will find this book contains an interesting thesis.

He said recently that "we (the Omahas) hope to get rid of some of the stereotypes of Indians."

Bruce Johansen, (then) an assistant professor of communications at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, apparently has given Hastings something he can openly discuss--that this nation's heritage, the freedom we all enjoy, can be traced to the enlightened culture of the American Indian.

Back in 1975 Johansen--as a reporter for the Seattle Times--was assigned to do a series of articles on Indian tribes in the state of Washington.

One of his assignments took him to Evergreen State College where a young female undergraduate enrolled in an Indian studies program told the reporter the Iroquois had played a big role in the development of our democratic traditions.

Students of history will recall that it was the Iroquois who formed a federation called both the Five Nations or Iroquois Long House. It was considered one of the most advanced forms of government among the Indian

tribes of North America.

Johansen relates that at first he had difficulty believing the young woman, especially after she told him that her conclusion was based on what "my grandmother told me."

The reporter wondered if the student had any sources for what grandmother had said. Her reply: "You're the investigative reporter. You find them."

This opened a whole new conclusion about the advent of our democracy for soon-to-be PhD Johansen, who said the topic for his dissertation was based on the role that Iroquois political and social thought played in the thinking of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

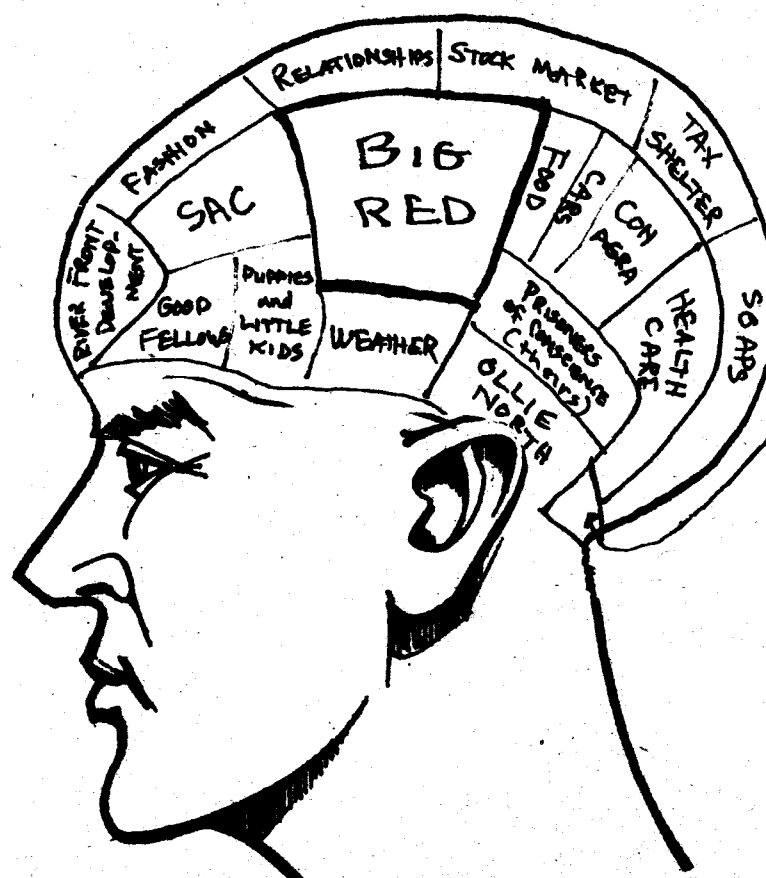
In this book, Johansen shares his research with us, and it is thorough indeed. It led to this observation: "I had not realized how tightly Franklin's experience with the Iroquois had been woven into his development of revolutionary theory and his advocacy of federal union."

He says Franklin's contemporary, Cadwallader Colden, noted the Iroquois system had "outdone the Romans."

For example, with much attention these days drawn to the feminist movement, how many of us realize that women in the Iroquois tribe nominated members of the tribal council and removed them from office if they misbehaved?

Johansen states that Jefferson and Franklin believed the Indians had what the colonialists wanted: "Societies free of oppression and class stratification."

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